for even after rationalization of charges. The Government is committed to provide free quality treatment to the poor and needy and affordable treatment to all, at the Central Government Institutions.

**Deficiency in Russian Medical Education**

†2690. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of Medical Council of India after visiting Russia detected several deficiencies in the standard of medical education of the colleges where Indian students have been studying and recommended withdrawal of recognition of such institutions; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A team of MCI had visited some medical institutions of erstwhile U.S.S.R. and had detected lacunae with regard to duration of the course, eligibility criteria, internship pattern, curriculum being followed for imparting training at undergraduate level, migration of the students from MCI unrecognized institutions to MCI recognized institutions etc.. On receipts of various references from different sources including MCI on the deterioration in the standards of Medical Education in several institutions in erstwhile USSR, the Government amended the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act 1956 through the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act 2001. As per the amendments and the Screening Test Regulations 2002 framed thereunder, any Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institution outside India, who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with Medical Council of India or any State Medical Councils on or after 15th March 2002 shall have to qualify the Screening test conducted by the prescribed authority for that purpose. The primary medical qualification possessed by the Indian students must be a recognized medical qualification for enrollment as medical practitioner in the country in which the institution awarding the said qualification is situated and which is equivalent to MBBS in India.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.